

*Canada Elections Act*

render very valuable services to various companies.

Mr. Speaker, several qualities may be attributed to those young people. Allow me to mention a few:

1. They have intuition and ideals;
2. They have energy and a creative mind;
3. They have untold resources of inborn qualities.

Our country, which is also one of the newer countries on the map of the world, needs all men of good will. I think we can prove to the world that we are broad-minded and that we mean to devote all our energies and talents to our economic and social emancipation.

Young people, because of their nature and idealism, have a definite talent for science and research. Research concerning the promotion of talent will play a major role in the second century of our country.

Competent authorities in the field of education are giving a greater importance than ever to a number of great qualities of youth. Responsibilities are being increasingly delegated to young leaders, young professors, in other words to dynamic people who dare to look ahead and think big.

Our young people can be very important, because they can bring people to collaborate and find advanced formulas.

• (5:50 p.m.)

It must also be recognized that those young people should have the right to speak up and be represented on the labour market. They have often been denied because their voice was not powerful enough in those sectors which appeal to them most. They want to valorize themselves by contributing to them.

The principle of majority is now recognized at 21 years of age only. You will grant me that maturity is more a matter of behaviour than of age. Another aspect must be considered. Indeed, many of our young people are allowed by civil and religious authorities to marry before they are 21 years old. That situation involves many inconveniences when the legal age of majority is 21. Let me give you a few examples to illustrate what I mean.

For instance: (1) the consent of parents or tutors must be obtained; (2) one is unable to make a will as citizens of age do, and (3) one is legally irresponsible yet assumes responsibilities.

Many think it desirable that the greatest possible number of active people of a country should make the decisions and that the responsibilities should be shared by all classes

of citizens. The adults and particularly the young are anxious for a dialogue in our present world. But, for the dialogue to be practical, it is necessary that equal rights and responsibilities be shared by all parties concerned.

The best way to practice a well-ordered policy is to delegate responsibilities in an atmosphere of confidence.

I think that our youths should be trained not only to profit from a healthy body but to adopt a positive attitude, so that they may be psychologically prepared at the earliest possible time to take over from their elders. Because of our information and culture media, our youths are more advanced and better informed. Our youths are ready to produce and it is better to let them work with what they have within the framework of responsibilities instead of isolating them in their frustration. The desire to have an ideal is natural with them.

I have no doubt that if our youths were to share the right to vote, this would eventually improve the quality of the popular vote. Besides, our schools are starting to include in their training, important factors concerning citizenship, public affairs and subjects of interest to our citizens.

Young people nowadays take an increasing interest in politics and public affairs. They read more, participate in forums and meetings and seek really positive ways of communicating with their fellowmen.

It may be said that juvenile delinquency proves more frequent among the young until they reach 18 years of age, but, if one goes to the source, one finds that in most cases the young people were made prone to delinquency by adult delinquents. It must also be admitted that we must be objective and not place too much emphasis on the mistakes of young people, because they, in turn, will not fail to point out the mistakes of their elders.

Certain arguments are used by those who doubt that 18-year-olds are capable of voting. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the house, I do not have the time required to go over all those arguments, but there are some, and, if you will, I shall refer to only one of them which I think it is important to emphasize in order to understand the positive factors involved.

Some will say that our young people are often unstable, impulsive and that therefore they cannot naturally and psychologically express a really significant opinion on matters of some importance. But we must recognize